

PEOPLES PARK CRISIS Chronology

WALLER PRESS 192

Setting

This chronology will deal with the building of the People's Park and with the crisis that it created in Berkeley from May through June of 1969. In order to understand that controversy and the antagonisms between the University and the students, the police and the community, it is necessary to remember the context in which the crisis occurred. During the last five years most students and many Berkeley residents had come to believe that the periodic crises that disrupted the cities were not simple "problems of communication" but were disorders of a far deeper and more profound nature. On the basis of their experience on the campus and in the cities they began to conclude that the social authorities were doing more to sustain than to solve those disorders - suppressing discontent with outright force when necessary, relying on more subtle administrative techniques (like the gradual extension of control over Berkeley) when possible.

1956

Regents plan to purchase lot between Telegraph-Bowditch-Dwight and Haste streets as part of their Master Plan for expansion.

1957

University purchases land with \$ 1.3 million from Regents Fund much of which comes from student funds.

1968

People are evicted from homes on the land between Telegraph-Bowditch-Dwight and Haste. The lot is left vacant with mud, trash, and parked cars because of the lack of University funds.

Professor Van der Ryn of Environmental Design and chairman of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Housing and Environment states, "U.C. expansion has largely been a device to deny the street people a place to live."

Vice Chancellor Chiet tells the Regents; "Let's clean up that area and get rid of the people living there, who are a threat to the stability of the University." (Ramparts July 1969)

As it becomes evident that construction will not begin soon the Chancellor's Committee on Student Housing and Environment recommends that the lot be turned over to the "street people" in order to "take pressure off a tense and crowded Telegraph Avenue." Committee chairman, Sim Van der Ryn says later that the advice "went unheeded."

April, 1969

18 A Berkeley Barb notice announces that a Park will be built on the land beginning on Sunday April 20th. It suggests that the community could "have a child care clinic or a crafts commune which would communicate its wares by having medieval-style fairs, a baseball diamond, a rock concert, or a place to think and sleep in the sun." The Park would also be, "A cultural, political, freak-out and rap center for the Western World."

The San Francisco Chronicle is later to comment, "Affluent Berkeley actually has very few parks for its people or other recreational facilities. Many residents, including businessmen had complained that the 'octopus' - the University of California - seemed to have a grip on far too much of the city."

Peoples Park Is Born

April 20 Sunday 300 students, street people and local residents gather to clear and level the ground, to plant grass, flowers, vegetables and trees. Contributions are received from local merchants and the park workers for plants and grass. Play-ground equipment, music, food and fun attract people of all ages.

28 The University announces new plans to build a "badly needed soccer field" on the site in June. During this time the park continues to grow; more people working daily. Sunday work-days attract hundreds to plant, dance and share communal dinners.

30 Chiet and a few Park initiators meet to talk about preserving the Park. No agreement is reached.

May

7 1,500 local residents sign a petition in support of People's Park. A park spokesman says that people intend, "to exhaust all legal remedies since there are still quite a few left."

8 Chancellor Heyns, concerned with financial liability for the Park, meets with a few park initiators and demands they select a 'responsible' committee to meet with him. They refuse, explaining that decisions in the park are made by everyone. Instead they invite him to come to the park and participate in the decision-making.

Chancellor Heyns also gives the Committee on Housing and Environment chaired by Dr. Van der Ryn three weeks to draw up alternative plans for the park site.

10 Chiet assures people that any University action on the park will be announced ahead of time.

13 Heyns announces that the Park would be fenced in, "to re-establish the conveniently forgotten fact that the field is indeed the University's and to exclude unauthorized persons from the site." He asserts, "The fence will give us time to plan and to consult."

Van der Ryn states, "The Chancellor gave our committee two days over the weekend to come up with a plan." This wasn't enough time, he said, "I think the People's Park was a great idea. The University just seems to be mad they didn't think of it first." He added that the University "didn't seem to be very interested in negotiations" about the land.

14 Heyns advertises in the Daily Cal that students should submit their plans to the campus architect for Park development. He leaves for Washington D.C.; Chiet goes to Los Angeles for the Regent's meeting.

'No Trespassing' signs are posted in the Park by the University.

Expecting an attack on the park, a meeting of local residents and students vote to defend the land, and they elect a negotiating committee. They state; "We will meet anytime, anywhere, even Paris." They are unable to meet with the administration because chief administrators are not in town. Heyns comments later, "If I didn't leave town when something was going to happen in Berkeley I would never leave." (Los Angeles Times June 17, 1969)



Jacobson
Goodrick, LNS

To The Streets

"The fence was necessary to permit the kind of rational discussion and planning that wasn't possible before." Earl Chiet (5/21/69)

Thursday May 15 3-6 a.m. Over 300 police visibly armed with tear gas, mace, flack vests and shotguns clear 50 vigilers from the park. 3 are arrested for trespassing.

An 8-foot cyclone fence is erected around the park by workers from the San Jose Steel Company.

May 15 (cont.)

Noon rally in Sproul Plaza. 3,000 march down Telegraph to the park. Confrontation with the police. A fire hydrant is turned on by the marchers and police push people in effort to turn it off. Rocks are thrown at the police and the police use tear gas on the crowd. The Alameda Sheriffs fire buckshot, birdshot, and 38's at demonstrators - seriously wounding James Rector and blinding Alan Blanchard. Tear gas, pepper gas, and rock salt grenades are also used. Police fire into houses and at spectators. People respond with rocks. Subsequent street fighting moves onto the campus. Buckshot slugs break library windows and are embedded in library's outer walls. (D.C. 5/20) At 3:00 p.m. the San Francisco Tactical Squad arrives and sweeps the campus. By 4:30 police have arrived from San Leandro, Walnut Creek, Richmond, Oakland, Pacifica, Contra Costa, Alameda and Marin Counties in addition to units from the California Highway Patrol. Over 100 people are shot. Many are injured including several policemen. Though Madigan claims that only birdshot was used, doctors' reports at Herrick Hospital indicate large pellets and .38 slugs were also removed from wounds.

Dr. Brean of Herrick Hospital later states, "There are ways of solving disputes without killing people. Birdshot can penetrate the soft tissues of the body and sometimes damage the inner organs. Buckshot tears the body - all of it - apart. The indiscriminate use of shotguns is sheer insanity."

The Regents, meeting in Los Angeles, affirm confidence in the Berkeley administration, postpone discussion of the park.

College of Environmental Design recommends use of Park land as an Environmental Design Field Station to be sponsored by the College.

Campus local of AFSCME asks for the closing of campus due to danger employees face of physical violence on campus.

Gov. Reagan declares park land had been seized as an excuse for a riot. Call it a "phony issue." He declares a curfew at the request of Berkeley mayor Wallace Johnson and the City Manager. Under the State of Extreme Emergency (still in effect from the February Third World Strike) "any participation in a meeting, assembly, or parade in or about Berkeley including the campus" is prohibited.

Reagan sends 2,000 National Guard into Berkeley. First groups are from the 2nd Battalion, 159th Infantry and part of 49th Infantry from San Jose, Marysville, and other non-Bay Area communities.



Chloro

May Friday 16 A noon rally at the Campanile defies the State of Emergency and moves with over 3,000 park supporters to City Hall which is surrounded by 1,000 National Guards.

Many churches and civic groups demand removal of the Guard and lifting of the curfew.

A mass meeting held at Merritt College in Oakland because of the curfew in Berkeley declares that 'business as usual' must cease while the city is under military occupation. They decide to take the issue to the business districts and to focus the protest in downtown Berkeley.

Protestors begin for first time in recent decades to fraternize, begin discussion and bring food to the National Guard. Many instances of friendly response. (within a few days the National Guard began to be rotated more frequently because of their warmth towards the demonstrators.)

17 Saturday Downtown Berkeley is closed for over 3 hours because of presence of park supporters and National Guard. Later in the day police clear the Telegraph Ave. area with tear gas.

18 Sunday A silent vigil for those injured Thursday called for 1:00 at Herrick Hospital is broken up by police. Demonstrators move to an empty lot at Hearst and Grant and begin planting People's Park #2. The Guard pushes people off the land. (The surrounding community continues to work on the park; they are also pushed back by police and the park is destroyed.) 3,000 march up to the Berkeley Hills establishing other park annexes which police tear up. 3 are arrested, bringing the total to 117 arrested since Thursday.

Heyns says the University will not enter negotiations about the park.

19 Monday A few faculty members and members of AFSCME hold silent vigil on the steps of Sproul Hall in support of the Park, in protest of the occupation, and in defiance of the State of Emergency.

Park people hold a noon rally and 4,000 march downtown. The West end of campus is blocked by the National Guard. Marchers are forced to divide into smaller groups and to detour in order to reach Shattuck. The National Guard and the Highway Patrol seal off the main intersections downtown and the Highway Patrol chase small groups of demonstrators. Many are beaten. 31 arrested, 30 injured.

National Guard sweeps Sproul Plaza with fixed bayonets. The Plaza is tear gassed.

Mayor Johnson suggests establishment of a People's Park one block from original site - Dwight below Telegraph. This lot is approximately 1/10 of the size of the original area. Park people reject the offer.

Santa Cruz students blockade their main administration building, demonstrating support of park, protesting use of troops, and demanding that U.C. pay legal and medical expenses incurred during the crisis.

At 10:12 p.m. James Rector, the youth shot gunned by police as he watched the confrontation on May 15, dies from 'acute heart failure' due to gunshot wounds.

20 Tuesday 37 student leaders from campus organization, fraternities and spirit groups issue statement in the Daily Cal supporting the park.

5,000 people attend memorial march for James Rector led by faculty. Stopped at west campus by police who herd many people into Lower Sproul Plaza where they are trapped. 15 minutes later a National Guard helicopter flies over the crowd spraying CS gas, a chemical agent banned by the Geneva Convention. The gas causes skin burns and vomiting. Eighty-five people are arrested; including one National Guardsman who throws down his rifle, refusing to obey further orders.

Berkeley City Council (1) calls for City Manager to talk with Heyns about the city leasing the land for a neighborhood park (2) asks for a grand jury investigation of 'Bloody Thursday' and the force used to crush protesters.

21 Wednesday Faculty members of A.F.T. 1474 and others (200 in all) vow not to teach classes as long as armed forces occupy Berkeley.

A noon rally marches around campus, demonstrates at the Chancellor's house and later disrupts traffic off campus. 22 people are arrested bringing the total for the past week to 288.

Mothers and children march in downtown Berkeley demanding that the National Guard and the fence around the park be removed.

Heyns, A.S.U.C. president Charles Palmer, Mayor Johnson and Frank Bardacke from the Negotiating Committee meet for a televised debate. Mayor Johnson and Chancellor Heyns assert that proper channels were not used in the creation of the Park. Charlie Palmer responds that on numerous occasions students have found the 'channels' closed and the administrators inaccessible. Frank Bardacke states, "The reason they're so scared of the Park is precisely because of the way it was built; because their whole life depends upon the kind of structures where you have to have an architect draw up plans, and decisions made at the top that eventually trickle down to the bottom. So the reason they're afraid of this Park is precisely because people got together on their own and built something of their own... something beautiful and something creative; and that kind of thing, as far as they're concerned is very dangerous because we didn't go through channels. The reason they want us to go through channels is because that submits us to their control."

Statewide demonstrations of solidarity with People's Park involve thousands of students at San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Stanford, Riverside and San Jose.

(cont. on page 7.)



Chloro



Thoughts on the Park

On May 15, Alameda County Sheriffs and California Highway Patrolmen arrived in Berkeley in battle gear, with weapons and ammunition of their personal choice, authorized to shoot the residents of the City. In the ensuing days -- which the Governor and the County Sheriff continually referred to as a "war" -- countless people were wounded with birdshot and .38's. One of our friends, James Rector, was killed. Another -- an artist and a carpenter -- was blinded for life. Citizens of Berkeley tasted gas of a sort prohibited by the Geneva Convention. The problems of this city, in addition, were subordinated despite the protests even of the mayor and the city council, to the exigencies of state politics.

These events occurred because certain choices were made -- not by the community, but for the community by a small number of University and civil administrators. It was these men who decided that the various "costs" involved with the fence and the troops were easier for the community to bear than the original Park. But, how, we ask, were the 8-foot chain-link fence, the three weeks of Police and National Guard, and the repeated military occupations cheaper than the People's Park? More importantly, how did these "cost analysts" figure that the brutality and the fear, the disruption of a city -- the suppression rather than solution of deep community problems -- were cheaper than a park designed and built by the people who were going to use it? How do you figure the price of a man's life? of a pair of eyes? of a city both occupied and terror-stricken?

The governor informed us that these outrages were not intentional. They were, he said, only accidental results of the decision to "unleash the dogs of war." But our question remains: why was it considered necessary to unleash the dogs of war? Why did these "reasonable" managers become involved in the profound irrationality of barricading a community park in order to save the community, of preferring "war" to negotiation, of allowing frightened and brutal police to write the laws instead of the various committees and institutions designed for that purpose?

And why did we -- students, ex-students, South Campus residents -- reject these particular choices? Why did we and why do we continue to fight so hard for the Park? What does it mean for us? Why do we feel the Park spoke to the needs of the people who live in Berkeley and that the actions of the authorities did not? It is necessary to answer these questions in order to understand what actually happened during the last few months, and in order to understand what those months mean for Berkeley's future?

1. What led to May 15? The origins of the crisis.

What led to May 15? How did the whole affair begin? On a Sunday in mid-April, students, street-people, and members of the South Campus community began to build a park on a vacant lot between Haste and Dwight Streets, West of Bowditch. The muddy, unkempt lot had been used as a parking lot by the students -- without any indication of approval or disapproval from the University of California, which owned the land. The lot had been the site of private residences, which had housed students until the spring of 1968 when the University demolished them. At that time they had not yet set a future construction date, nor did the University possess the funds to begin construction on future buildings.

Park People leveled ground, laid sod, rented a caterpillar and other necessary tools, planted trees, set up a community bulletin board, and built a playground. Throughout April, an increasing number of people from the densely populated area -- which was and again is barren of any parks -- began to use the Park. Mothers brought pre-school children to play in it; elderly people walked through it; students and street people met and worked on it. At one point neighbors complained of excessive noise. The people in the Park met that afternoon and out of respect for the working people and students living nearby, decided to eliminate noise after 11 week day nights. The rule was informally "enforced" in the way that we who worked on the park feel social rules should be: through discussion and persuasion. This resolution of the problem was partly responsible for the great support the Park received from the neighbors. A poll taken by the College of Environmental Design revealed that 86% of the people living in the area supported People's Park. (Chronicle, 5/27/69)

The people who weeded, graded and planted were not naive. They knew the land was "owned" by the University. They did not know -- for Vice-Chancellor Cheit had not made public -- that the 1.3 million dollars spent on the land had originally come from student funds. They did not know -- as was revealed on KPFA a few weeks later -- that Berkeley has one of the worst park systems of any large city in the United States.* They

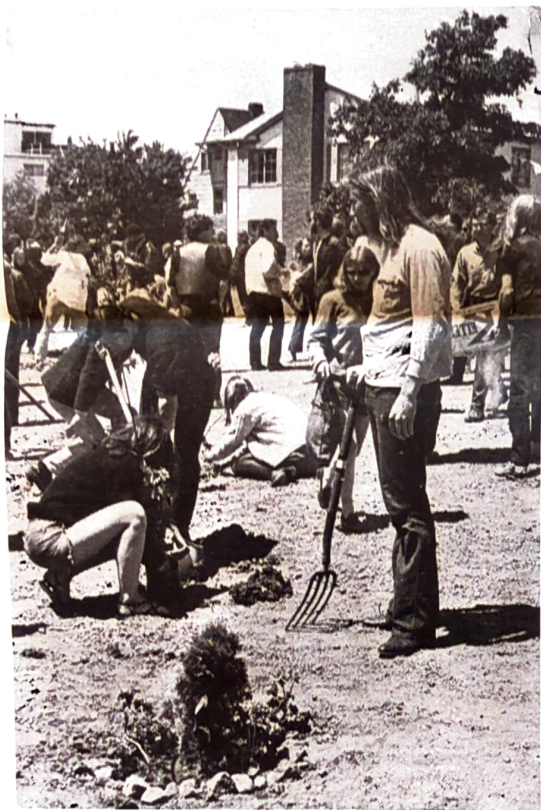
* As reported by David Anthrop on the June 17 KPFA commentary, Berkeley has an exceedingly scarce supply of parkland: 2 acres for every 1000 people. San Francisco, considered a crowded city, has 2 1/2 times this much. Oakland and L.A. have 3 1/2 times, and Sunnyvale and Pasadena 5 times as much. The nearness of the regional parks does not alter the proportions. Oakland also uses the regional park. In addition, these parks did not relieve the congestion of the city nor are they accessible to everyone. (Berkeley Planning Dept., Berkeley Facts, 1968, "Open Spaces; The Choices Before California," Edw. Williams, Diablo Press.)

did not make much of the fact that the University was chartered as a "public" trust -- for their experience had taught them the University authorities were not responsible to the "public" at all. They moved onto the muddy lot for specifically political reasons. The "politics" were of a special kind, however. They moved onto the lot because they enjoyed working with each other, because they wished to show the neighbors how they felt people could cooperate with each other to improve their cities. They moved onto the lot, finally, in order to fight the University's attempts to destroy the South Campus community. University expansion into the life of the city had, in recent years, caused life in the area to become grimmer, uglier and more constricted. It was felt that the Park would provide opportunities for creative work, beauty, and friendliness -- opportunities for the best facets of the community.

We hoped, despite the lessons of experience, that the University administration might permit a "user-developed, spontaneously designed" community space for the South Campus area. In order to facilitate this end, we went so far as to form a corporation to carry on negotiations with the administration. Our hopes, were in part fulfilled; in part, crushed.

The appropriate University committees all supported the plans for the park in one fashion or another. ** The neighbors began to enjoy the park, and people who had been strangers began to talk to one another. Unfortunately neither these committees nor the neighbors had a say in the decisions. Early the second week of May, Chancellor Heyns of the University assured people there would be no midnight raids on the Park while negotiations continued.

Yet on May 14, he approved plans for the 8-foot cyclone fence to be erected around the Park, empowered Sheriff Madigan to use whatever force he considered necessary to protect the Regent's land title, put Vice-Chancellor Cheit in charge, and, then, left town. The rest is history.



2. The struggle: what it was about.

Why did the authorities respond in the manner they did? Why did Chancellor Heyns choose a course of action which caused him to sign-over both the chancellorship and the mayoralty to Sheriff Madigan?

The officials offer various answers.

Mayor Johnson waved a marijuana plant before the City Council and the Governor waved names of "radicals" before the public, in attempts to justify the brutality and to declare the people guilty without even introducing evidence or charges into court. Surely declarations of guilt cannot, however, justify the armed repression and the level of penal prosecution that we saw in the past few months. The mayor's and governor's charges were flaunted before the public, we feel, in order to obscure the real issues.

The real questions, as most people understood them turned on matters of private property. Park People were charged with trespassing on private land and with refusing to avail themselves of the established procedures. One person at the City Council meeting even charged that the Park People had "threatened civilization itself." For these reasons some people apparently felt that "society" was justified in using whatever force against the the Park People "it" felt necessary.

Do these two positions talk past each other, or is it possible to make some sense out of them?

First, it is important to point out that it was not the "radicals" who destroyed "private" property. If the term "private property" is used to indicate that particular area of personal ownership and responsibility which characterized the free enterprise system, then "private" property had already been preempted the previous year when the University obtained control over, and then destroyed, the private residences.

In fact, the University and other big businesses like it are obtaining greater and greater control over our economy, our means of transportation, over our health care, urban development, and -- as in Berkeley, even over our means of leisure. These big corporations continue to invoke--the language of private rights. But they invoke it to hide the fact that they control large-scale social resources in their own interests.

All this is not to suggest that the University is really a "public" trust either. The Board of Regents is a Board of Directors; it is made up not of educators, but of the biggest monopoly interests in California. As with 90% of the other college directors in the country, these "regents" are responsible primarily to the needs of business, and only secondly to those of education.

The "private" property between Dwight and Haste was destroyed, in other words, by the University -- one of those semi-private, semi-governmental organizations that has obtained the power to regulate, badger and administrate our lives without in any way being responsive or accountable to us.

Some fellow Berkeley citizens warn that the "radicals" will soon be taking over your back yards. We urge you to look instead in the other direction. For the last few decades make abundantly clear that it is these corporations, using government protection to defend their manipulation of men and of men's environment, -- that are taking over your yards and moving irrevocably into your lives.

The Question Is Control

For these reasons, most of us agree with Chancellor Heyns' explanation. The issue for him was not about ownership of private property per se, but specifically about "control". -- control of land usage.

How is land used? How are civic and social resources in general administered? Whod decides? And to whom are they responsible? It seems to us that there are only two possible answers to these questions. On the one hand, corporate executives and managers can make the decisions, as they do now -- responsible only to Boards of directors or "regents." On the other hand, the people of the community in their various interests and walks of life can make decisions -- responsible to themselves. On the one hand we have the priorities of profit-making and the need for a steady return on investments. These are priorities which take no account of the ugliness of our cities, of the shoddiness of consumer goods, of the high rate of unemployment -- and which take no account of declining real wages or public taxes and of racial and economic discrimination.

Placed in this perspective, it becomes clear that it was not the Park People that threatened "civilization". It was rather the corporate monopolies-- organizations like Union Oil that possess the power to litter the beaches of half a state, or the automobile industry, which continues to risk people's lives in its zeal for profits, or the agricultural industry, which continues to use men like animals, and to poison crops with DDT, or of the University industry which -- besides introducing... speed-up and automation techniques into higher education and besides deciding that a soccer field deserved scarce funds instead of a T.W. college -- forces high taxes to be borne by small property holders in Berkeley.

We suggest it was not "civilization" that was being threatened at all, but rather the vested interests of some people to manipulate and make profits off the powerlessness and ignorance of others.

Similarly, it was not "society" that retaliated against the Park People. It was, we feel, these few individuals who possessed the power to mobilize the means of violence. "Society", to the extent it was asked at all, overwhelmingly supported the Peoples' Park. (The Faculty Senate vote to remove the fence from the park and the troops from Berkeley; 85% of the 15,000 students who voted, revealed their support for the Park, as had 86% of the neighbors as noted above. In addition 35,000 people came to Berkeley on Memorial Day to march in solidarity with the park people.)

When Heyns or Reagan or Madigan begin to identify themselves with "society" they -- and not those who worked in the Park -- are attempting to "dupe" people. They are attempting to hide the fact that recurrent urban crises come about as a result of the policies they have chosen. By focussing attention on the few individuals who respond to these crises, they attempt to deflect attention away from their own responsibility.

The question again, is control. We believe that the people in the community should control their resources. They should use the resources in the manner that they, and not some elite, sees

**In fact even before the College of Environmental Design proposed that the land be given to the "street people" and used as a research Field Station, and before the Chancellor's Committee on Housing and Environment stated that "a community generated People's Park is a constructive and appropriate use," Sim Van der Ryn of the Chancellor's Committee recommended in Spring, 1968, that the land be turned over to people in the South Campus area. The Department of Landscape Architecture had also prepared a 32-page document outlining in detail precedents for user-developed parks, and possibilities for leasing the land to a non-profit corporation.

The War of The Daisies

—Arthur Hoppe

SKAREWE UNIVERSITY. June 3, 1972
— Peace talks entered their second
year today in The War of the Unauthor-
ized Flower.

The war began when three undesir-
ables planted a daisy on a nearby vacant
lot — admittedly without permission from
the Vice Provost for Floriculture.

The Governor swiftly dispatched 37,568
troops to stamp out the unauthorized dai-
sies.

"Under The Creeping Daisy Theory,"
he said grimly, "as this vacant lot goes,
so goes the next and the next until finally
we would be up to our ... up to here in
daisies."

At the time, the Governor said he acted
at the request of 48 local residents with
hay fever. "And that's four more," he not-
ed, "than the number of Czechs who
asked the Russians to send their tanks
into Prague."

AT THE FRONT, such as it was, U.S.
military men said the war was
"going very well." A spokesman said "87
per cent of the campus has now been paci-
fied — at one time or another."

He said American troops were "inflict-
ing a terrible toll, attritionwise, by actual
body count" and the campus was now 97.3
per cent defoliated. "There isn't a daisy
alive within 14 miles," he said.

In Washington, President Nixon once
again defended spraying gas on the ene-
my from low-flying helicopters, pointing
out that neither side was a signatory to
the Geneva Convention prohibiting gas
warfare.

He said the only reason the U.S. contin-
ued its shotgun and gas attacks on the
faculty, the students and neighboring resi-

dents was because that was what they
wanted. "We want nothing at Skarewe
U," he said. "We are only there to give
them what they want themselves."

Meanwhile, the peace talks dragged
on. Grouseley Grommet, militant leader,
reiterated his 143 non-negotiable demands,
including immediate withdrawal of U.S.
troops, a coalition government and free
elections of a new campus president.

Ambassador Lodge countered with an
offer of mutual withdrawal of U.S. troops
and outside agitators, plus free elections.
The President of Skarewe U. immediately
flew to Coney Island to confer with Mi-
lon Nixon about, as he privately put it, "this
free election nonsense."

Polls showed that Congressman Men-
del Rivers was drawing wide support for
his plan to bomb the Nation's high schools.
"It's no secret they're supplying Skarewe
U. with young agitators each fall," he
said, "and we can't fight this war with
one hand tied behind our back." Senator
Goldwater added that he "would not rule
out" tactical nuclear weapons.

Mr. Nixon, however, rejected such
suggestions. He said he had his own "se-
cret plan to end this war." He would re-
veal it, he said, immediately after his
re-election.

A REPORT this morning that an unau-
thorized forget-me-not had been
spotted on the hitherto-peaceful Southern
Campus of Skarewe U. sent the stock
market plummeting. On inspection by the
Ninth Armored Division, however, it
turned out to be a rare specimen of rag-
weed. No action was taken.
"Weeds," the Governor pointed out,
"are permitted to grow without authoriza-
tion."

The streets of our country are in turmoil. The
universities are filled with students rebelling and
rioting. Communists are seeking to destroy our
country. Russia is threatening us with her might
and the Republic is in danger. Yes, danger from
within and without. We need law and order. Yes,
without law and order our nation cannot survive.
Elect us and we shall restore law and order.

Jacobson

—Adolf Hitler, Hamburg, 1932



STUDENT PARTICIPATION WANTED

Student ideas and designs for the development of the eastern side
of the Dwight-Haste lot are wanted.

As I indicated in my announcement published in the *Daily Californian*, May 14th, the University wants to design a recreational
area which meets student needs and enhances the south campus
area. In order to do the things necessary to plan (surveying, soil
testing, etc.), and to have the time necessary to plan most profitably
for all, a fence must be erected around the lot. We will proceed first
with the western end of the site to develop playing field space, but
will not work on the remainder of the area, until a final plan is
developed. We do want to proceed promptly with final design plans.

You can influence that final design on the eastern portion of the
lot by sending us a statement of your ideas or your designs for
student recreation in that area.

Students having ideas as to how this eastern portion of the
Dwight-Haste recreational area might be best designed in accord-
ance with the criteria listed in my statement of May 14th are urged
to send these designs or suggestions to Mr. Louis DeMonte, Campus
Architect, Office of Architects and Engineers, Berkeley Campus, by
Wednesday, May 21st. He will study your proposals, consult with
Professor Van der Ryn, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Housing
and the Environment, and prepare design plans for the area.

Roger W. Heyns
CHANCELLOR

STUDENT PARTICIPATION: HOAX

Student designs and ideas for the eastern side of the Dwight-Haste lot
have already been expressed and explained by the people who will use
that area. Chancellor Heyns knows that.

The planning, the development of that area by University architects
and administrators—people who will never set foot in it—is a move op-
posed to the whole concept of a community park, a concept we students
have come to believe in. Chancellor Heyns knows that.

The chancellor has already asked for suggestions. Proposals were pre-
sented at a meeting of Professor Van der Ryn's committee 10 days ago.
The people at the meeting said that they wanted the park to remain as it
was before the fence went up, before the troops moved in. That was the
committee's recommendation. Chancellor Heyns knows that.

What is offered by the Chancellor is not participation. He and his peo-
ple will decide. He does not talk about a group of students—as students—
making the decision about a facility intended for students. He and his
will decide what is best for us.

Let no one be misled. The Chancellor offers a hoax.

Charles F. Palmer
PRESIDENT, ASUC

If you support us, we welcome your support. We need help from
many different people, with many different interests. If you
can help, call our office (549 3977), send money for legal defense,
or - better- encourage a concern for the needs of the community
and for fellow working-people in your neighborhood and at your job.
This concern for People's Projects may not be an easy task; it will
often lead you into trouble with your supervisors or your friends.
But we wish you luck, and will support you in your struggles.

If you care to talk to us, invite neighbors or friends into
your living room, call 549-3977 and we will come out to talk with
you.

If you disagree with us and feel that we are in some ways
wrong about these issues - but if you would like to have a serious
discussion with us, invite your friends over and give us a call. We
would like also to talk with you.

etc. It was our adherence to these principles of community control and community participation that led us to the belief, on which we acted, that the unused lot should be made productive as a park.

"Property" for us, in other words is not seen as a means for erecting barriers between people; it is rather a medium through which people should be able to communicate and to work cooperatively with each other.

In sum we feel that "private" property has already been destroyed by the institutions of corporate capitalism; the question which remains for us all, and which was posed by the Park, is whether social resources will be used to satisfy social needs or whether they will only be used for corporate profits.

3. The Question of Violence

"There are ways of solving disputes without killing people. Birdshot can penetrate the soft tissues of the body and sometimes damage the inner organs. Buckshot tears the body - all of it - apart. The indiscriminate use of shotguns is sheer insanity." Dr. Brian, Herrick Hospital.

It is unbelievable in a nation priding itself on its reasonableness, its humanity, and its practicality, that the entire public discussion of this "insanity" should be devoted to the questions of a) whether Rector did or did not throw a brick and b) whether Park supporters yelled obscenities. Putting aside the facts (that Rector's companions stated he'd thrown nothing, and that pictures of the fatal volley show no piles of bricks, or pipes and no fallen police - contrary to Reagan), it is remarkable that some people conclude that the desire to build a community park coupled with verbal expressions of outrage should justify murder and maiming! Berkeley Councilman DeBonis claimed that the police had only responded in kind: when attacked with bricks they responded with bricks, when attacked with guns they responded with guns. When told instead that police had shot at unarmed, fleeing demonstrators, he answered, "If the kid was shot, he deserved it." Chancellor Heyns' public pronouncements reveal the same conclusions. This - without any exaggeration - is the logic of a police state. Whatever the authorities do - including the use of armed terror - is justified. Everyone else is presumed guilty until proven innocent.

It may be true that the violence would not have "broken out" if the students had not walked towards the park on May 15, or if they had not responded to the fence and the shotguns with rocks and angry voices. But to talk about it in this way is to suggest that there was something there to "break out" in the first place. That is precisely our belief - that the violence was already there, as it is in all our cities. The ways in which our cities are set up, the arrangements by which most people's lives are controlled and manipulated, can only be maintained through the threat of violence. Social authorities do not earn respect today because their actions do not respond to the desires of their constituencies.

In other words, we feel it was Heyns, Madigan and men like them who had set the stage. They created the political issue. They chose to solve it with force. They armed the troops. They called those troops into Berkeley in massive numbers, and they authorized them to shoot. We may have been the spark; but they built the keg and filled it with powder.

We students, street people, and South Campus residents found from our own experience what many people had told us for years - that our social system only is maintained with a great deal of violence, that this violence provokes a great hostility and anger in return, and that the authorities' attempt to preserve the present institutions will call forth an ever-increasing use of violence.

It is not therefore only the blinding and the maiming which concern us; it is the policies that these activities represent. It is not only the presence of the police; but the functions that the police are beginning to fulfill in our society. What concerns us is the fact that many people seem to believe that the problem is merely one of Law and Order and not really of city planning and decision-making.

As long as the men who run our cities and schools continue to feel that it's better to engender an atmosphere of distrust and hostility than to undertake serious governmental reforms, our cities and schools will become the scenes of greater and greater shows of force. This force will, we predict, be unavailing. The lesson of both the American and the Vietnamese revolutions is that societies cannot be held together by occupying armies. Whether or not individuals are harassed, jailed or maimed, more will come to take their places and to defend themselves, until the problems are solved at their institutional and political sources.

4. What it means for our future.

The events of the last few weeks occurred because University administrators and Sheriff's officers felt it was better to have the "war" than to permit the park.

Many people are not happy with the fact that the men who run our cities can make these kinds of choices. They agree that life in our cities is bad - taxes are high, food prices are rising, buildings are built that are both unsafe and ugly, politicians are corrupt. People agree it's not everything that it could be; but they ask, "What can you do?"

The people who built the Park attempted to answer that question. If you think about the Park, about the way in which people chipped in, respected each other's efforts, threw themselves into inventive and creative work, then you will understand what it is we feel people could do to change their lives. And if you think about the authorities' response - the refusal to negotiate, the refusal to listen to the voices of support in the polls or on Memorial Day, the decision to spend 1.3 million dollars on a soccer field rather than on programs like a T.W. college, and the decision to subordinate the need for humane work and play to exigencies of profit, - then you will be thinking of why it is that crises plague our cities.

These men went to such ferocious lengths to suppress our Park, not only because our hair and clothes were different, but also because of the spontaneous and cooperative way we went about making decisions - without hidden planning commissions, without anonymous administrators, without concern for investments. These men do not, we feel, represent the real, long-range interests of the community.

We understand the calculated attempt by the authorities to "clean up the South Campus area" to be an attempt to oppress and destroy that part of the community which puts the challenge to their arbitrary, irresponsible use of power, - an attempt to oppress and destroy those people who are the heirs of the American democratic traditions.

In response to this attempt, we raised the call for "Green Power". This was not a simple call for "green spaces" in the city. Nor was it the traditional demand of the conservationists to protect trees and lands from private businessmen. The call for "Green Power" expressed our commitment to create the sort of community in which people can participate in decision-making, and in which they can work cooperatively to improve the scope and quality of their lives.

That scope and quality lies presently in the shadow of our Berlin wall. The struggle which left that wall battered and bloody after Bastille Day will continue - through "channels" when they are open, and in the streets when necessary - until the decisions which control our lives are made by all the people in the community, and until our cities become both just and beautiful places in which to live.



Jacobson

A group of University professors led by Nobel prize-winning physicist Owen Chamberlain go to Sacramento to see Reagan. Prof. Leon Wofsy states that the people of California know "you can't run a University with bayonets." Reagan shouts him down. He admits the use of tear gas may have been a "tactical mistake" but adds, "once the dogs of war are unleashed, you must expect things will happen." (Chronicle 5/22)

Berkeley and Albany ACLU chapters demand, "Immediate suspension and removal from office of Alameda County Sheriff Frank Madigan." National Guard commander defends use of tear gas in Sproul Plaza claiming it was used for the safety of the troops.

22 Thursday ASUC referendum draws three times the normal turnout and 12,719 (85% of the vote) students support the principle that the park should be used and developed by the citizens and students of the Berkeley community, as it was before the crisis. The students also vote by the same margin to increase their fees by \$1.50 per quarter in order to finance a Third World College.

A mass meeting held in Oakland that evening decides to hold a huge Memorial Day march to demand the fence be removed.

A march into the business district ends with police herding 482 people into a Bank of America parking lot on Center Street and arresting them. Those arrested in the mass bust undergo brutal treatment and harassment at the Santa Rita County Prison Farm, many being forced to lie on the ground for 5 hours.

A Press Conference of doctors from the Medical Committee for Human Rights states that gas used in the attack Tuesday "can prove harmful and sometimes even fatal..." They accuse the authorities of "chemical warfare." (S.F. Chronicle 5/22)



Crowley

Community Support Grows

23 Friday. A noon rally demands that the Faculty Senate call for (1) The firing of Heyns, (2) The closing of campus, (3) The removal of the police and Guard, (4) The removal of the fence (5) The granting of amnesty to the 900 people arrested since May 15.

The faculty votes 642-95 for removal of the fence, withdrawal of troops, investigation by Justice Department "into police and military lawlessness committed in the past eight days in the name of maintaining law and order." Heyns claims he had "no objections" to allowing spontaneous design by users.

Democratic Senator Alan Cranston requests that Reagan "use the power of government to control violence, not to spread it."

24 Saturday. Front page story appears in the Chronicle by reporter Findley who was arrested in the mass bust. He describes the treatment received at Santa Rita. Federal investigations into the conditions at Santa Rita are called for. (Several weeks later Sheriff Madigan docks the pay and temporarily suspends some of the guards responsible for the treatment.)

Pressure is put on the Berkeley City Council to ask Reagan to lift the state of emergency and to remove the National Guard. Reagan conforms to the former and denies the latter.

Sen. McClellan announces initiation of federal investigation on urban riots.

Berkeley Coalition boycotts businesses and discusses issues with shoppers.

25 Sunday - After a meeting at Tilden Park, park supporters march to a memorial service for James Rector held at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. From the service they march to Hearst and Grant to create the Park Annex.

R. Foster, Berkeley Superintendent of School's states, "We must give the People's Park back to the People."

A leaflet explains, "There can be no 'solution' for the People's Park which does not permanently guarantee its community control and allow for its spontaneous development."

26 Monday. The Alameda Sheriff's Dept. are "temporarily" restrained by court order from beating and otherwise mistreating prisoners at the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center.

Sheriff Madigan, replying to criticism of the treatment of prisoners states, "We have a bunch of young deputies back from Vietnam who tend to treat prisoners like Viet Cong."

Park supporters hold rally, picket business districts and demonstrate in support of the 500 arrestees being arraigned.

Two day statewide-strike in protest over use of police and troops in Berkeley begins on many California campuses.

10,000 students from throughout California march to Sacramento to demand withdrawal of troops and return of the Park to the people.

The Park Negotiating Committee offers 3 alternatives for solution of the park crisis. The University could 1) give or sell them the land, 2) lease it to a community non-profit corporation or 3) establish an Environmental Design Field experiment in user-developed parks. (The Dept. of Landscape Architecture joins the Committee of Environmental Design and the Chancellor's Committee on Housing and Environment in endorsing the latter suggestion.) Heyns refuses all these alternatives.

The Park Annex continues to be developed. Bart offers to lease the Annex land to the city for \$1 a year.

27 Tuesday. After a noon rally people approach the fence and demand entrance to the park - then lay sod and potted plants on Haste street. A celebration occurs; a few girls go topless; the police and guard put on their gas masks.

The Academic Senate again votes to remove the fence.

The Berkeley City Council votes 6-3 to encourage the Regents to allow a "community-generated park."

A College of Environmental Design survey finds that 86% of the community surrounding the park favor "participation by the community in the design, development and control of any future park."

Reports of support come into Berkeley from across the country and in Europe. Among others; support from Rome, and from people in Madison, Wisconsin who build a James Rector People's Park.

Reagan announces he will use "whatever force is necessary" to control the planned Memorial Day demonstration.

28 Wednesday. President Hitch and Chancellor Heyns speak to the Regents and City Council members urging that the city lease the land from the University.

A park leaflet states, "Ownership of the park is not the issue; control of it is. We want to determine collectively who designs and builds it and what takes place within it."

Senate subcommittee on Investigations serves subpoenas for the University records on radical students. The Stanford Daily terms this action, "The rebirth of McCarthyism."

29 Thursday. Berkeley City Council votes 5-4 to lease the People's Park land from the University attendant on a decision by the Regents to do so.

"Insurrection City" is created at Park Annex to house influx of park supporters expected for Memorial Day's march.

Senator George McGovern warns that the U.S. "is on the verge of a war against the young" and cites Berkeley as an example of a "rampage of official violence." He concludes, "This is not the America I want for my children. This is not the America we love. This kind of official brutality, this abuse of authority must cease."



Chlorso

Memorial Day March

30 Friday. Madigan in a statement to the press announces that guns will be used again if he feels it necessary. "It's difficult to say at this time whether this will be a buckshot or a birdshot riot."

35,000 Park supporters from across the U.S. gather at the Park Annex; march to People's Park for a "Festival of Life." They demonstrate their feeling of solidarity by laying sod and dancing in the street. The celebration continues all weekend at the park annex.

June 3. Tuesday. Chancellor Heyns announces that the peacefulness of the Memorial Day March persuades him to remove the National Guard from the park. 6 Burns guards replace the troops. The Park Negotiating Committee reports that Heyns has also interpreted the peacefulness to be an indication that the pressure is off and they report that negotiations about the fence have become futile.

5 Thursday. A student vigil supports Dan Siegel, ASUC student body president-elect who has had civil charges brought against him for inciting to riot and University charges brought against him for a multitude of offenses. Many feel that this is an attempt by the administration to use him as a scapegoat for the violence of May 15.

6 Friday. A torch light parade around the Park is broken-up by police several arrested. Police raid Annex, rip up plants, burn tents, arrest 30 people.

7 Saturday. Regent's committee of Grounds and Buildings meet. No action taken on the park.

13 Friday. Reagan makes lengthy speech before the Commonwealth Club defending the heavy use of force by police at Berkeley. He charges that the crisis occurred as the result of efforts of extremist agitators. Reagan also urges university reform through closer student-teacher relations.

Justice Dept. announces that it is forming a "spy force" for college campuses to prosecute dissenters under the 1968 Civil Rights Act. (Los Angeles Times)

15. Sunday. Over 1,000 seniors, parents and friends walk out of the graduation ceremonies after ASUC president Charles Palmer denounces the University as a "white man's school" and urges them to "leave this commencement of rhetoric." Other commencement speakers support the walk-out:

16. Monday. Negotiating Committee replies to Reagan's speech of June 13, in an address entitled "15 lies". Amongst other points Reagan erred in saying that Park People had refused to negotiate before May 15, in saying that Sheriff's deputies had to literally step over the bodies of their injured fellow officers, and in charging that the gas attack from the helicopter had been ordered because of an imminent battle between the guard and demonstrators.

17. Tuesday. Heyns in an interview with the Los Angeles Times blames the crisis on bad luck, "I tried to keep the fringes off - separating out the radical movement from the other people by trying to work out a deal that I thought was acceptable. All the strategic things we try to do we did this time. It just didn't pan out. We were just unlucky. It takes a lot of dumb luck anyway."

20. Friday. Hitch and Heyns recommend that the Regents lease part of the land to the city for 7 years to be a user-developed park. Reagan terms this a "cop-out". The Regents, overriding the desires of students, faculty, Heyns and the community decide to use the park land as housing for married students. Until construction begins on the living units they propose to use the land as a parking lot and a University playing field. Regent Dutton remarks: "This board offers repression and no solution. The Center keeps shrinking and we're the provocateurs. There are as many provocateurs around this table as there are in the streets."

Peoples Pad

June 26. Park Negotiating Committee and Telegraph Avenue Summer Project began to obtain lease for vacant Savo Island Housing Project from the School Board to be called the "People's Pad" and used as a youth hostel throughout the summer. Resentment grows amongst neighbors who were forced from the housing project in March, and are now paying higher rents.

June 29. Park People change plans in response to neighborhood concern; decide to use People's Pad as a community service center-- with day care centers, playgrounds, medical care, etc.

During first two weeks of July, Pad people visit door-to-door, meet neighbors, hold Sunday afternoon picnics and rock sessions in Pad. Model Cities Program Board opposes creation of People's Pad, alleging it will bring police into the neighborhood and also lower property values. Black Panthers support People's Pad.

July 15. Despite growing community support for the Pad, the School Board cites opposition to Model Cities Board, and denies lease for People's Pad to the Park People.

July 11. Coroner's inquest declares murder of James Rector justifiable. Police officer who fired the shot asserts a brick had been thrown from a rooftop, but states he did not personally see Rector throw it. People on the roof with Rector testify he had thrown nothing.

July 14. Bastille Day attack on the fence by the Park people with wire cutters hidden in loaves of bread, in memorial coffin, and in rolls of sod. Large holes cut in fence. Police, originally unprepared for assault on fence, respond with scattered arrests and attacks on demonstrators. A few people and police are wounded. 34 arrests. Clashes continue into evening.

Leaflet distributed two days before states: "La Bastille!" Not so much for those imprisoned was the Bastille stormed, nor because there was power to be gained in the taking of it, but because the continued existence of the prison of stone was the invisible prison for the minds and souls of the people. Because La Bastille... had become a symbol of their slavery, the process of their liberation could not begin without the destruction of all the vestiges of their oppression.



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JULY 29, 1969.

FOR THE RADICAL STUDENT UNION

AND THE PARK NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE.

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